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Tutunjian To Drop Puck At River Rats Game Mayor to Welcome Back Troy Resident Playing With the Penguins Organization

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(January 14, 2005- TROY)- Mayor Harry Tutunjian will welcome back Troy native Matt Murley to the area Saturday night by dropping the ceremonial first puck at the Albany River Rats hockey game against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins at 7 p.m.

Murley spent much of last season in the National Hockey League playing for the Pittsburgh Penguins, but has been unable to do that again this year because of the lockout the league is currently mired in. Murley is currently the leading forward in the American Hockey League in plus/minus at +25, and in the last 21 games he has scored 8 goals and assisted on another 13, making him one of the hottest players in the league. He is also serving as one of the alternate captains on the team.

"It's exciting to welcome Matt back into town, and give the people who watched him when he played at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, see him at the professional level," Tutunjian said. "Matt is an amazing talent and someone we are all proud of for what he has accomplished and what he will accomplish during his career."

Saturday night's game against Wilkes-Barre is also a Troy Department of Public Works Night at the River Rats game. Murley's father Tom is a former engineer with the City of Troy. Members of the City's Action Team will attend the game in their famous neon green shirts.

"Certainly the home town pride will have most people pulling for the River Rats," Tutunjian said. "But it would be great to see a 7-6 game, with Matt scoring six goals. There would be nothing wrong with that at all."